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31 October 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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31 October 1961

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

25X1

2. USSR: Moscow proposes consultations with Finland to highlight its charges that West Germany constitutes a military threat. (Page i)

3. USSR: Comment on removal of Stalin's body from Red Square mausoleum. (Page ii)

25X1

6. Afghanistan-Pakistan: Karachi refuses entry to Pushtoon nomads, adding another irritant to relations between the two countries. (Page iv)

7. Nepal: Communist China to grant aid for constructing road from Katmandu to Tibetan border. (Page iv)

25X6

25X1

25X1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

31 October 1961

25X1

DAILY BRIEF

*USSR-Finland: The Soviet Union has requested Finland to begin consultations under the terms of the 1948 mutual assistance treaty, which provides that the two countries will confer "if it is established that the threat of an armed attack" by Germany or an ally "is present." The USSR probably would represent Finnish agreement to hold such consultations as acceptance of the Soviet contention of an increasing military threat from West Germany. In view of Khrushchev's open support for President Kekkonen in the forthcoming Finnish elections, it is doubtful that Moscow would risk jeopardizing Kekkonen's election

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i

25X1

25X1

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prospects by presenting extensive political demands or requests for military bases. Khrushchev has frequently taken personal credit for relinquishing the Porkkala naval base, which the Soviet Union leased after the war.

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*USSR: The decision of the Soviet party congress to remove Stalin's body from the mausoleum in Red Square serves as a capstone to Khrushchev's eight-year effort to destroy the Stalin myth. It will probably symbolize to the Soviet party and people that Khrushchev's power has reached new heights. Some adverse reaction, however, may be forthcoming from adherents of Stalin in non-bloc Communist parties or even in the satellites, and the decision might also be unpopular with some elements at home. Citizens of Soviet Georgia, Stalin's birthplace, demonstrated in 1956 against Khrushchev's campaign to blacken Stalin. Khrushchev's move is timed to emphasize further his attack on the leadership in Tirana and Peiping, and Mao will probably take particular umbrage at the decision. As recently as 21 October, Chou En-lai laid a wreath at the mausoleum with the inscription, "To Iosif Vissarionovich Stalin--the Great Marxist-Leninist." *OK*

25X1

25X1

31 Oct 61

DAILY BRIEF

ii

25X1

25X1

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Afghanistan-Pakistan: Pakistan has begun to enforce its new policy of preventing the Pushtoon nomads from migrating from Afghanistan to their winter quarters in Pakistan if they lack passports and visas. The first 7,000 of the 250,000-odd nomads have reached the border region, where they have been halted by Pakistani border forces. As more caravans are prevented from crossing the frontier mountains, fighting may break out with Pakistani border units. The Afghan economy, which has been disrupted by the closure of the Afghan border to trade crossing Pakistan, now faces the further burden of supplying basic necessities to the nomads during the winter.

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Communist China - Nepal: According to an agreement published in Peiping on 28 October, Communist China will grant Nepal \$9,800,000 over the next four years to cover the construction costs of a road to be built from Katmandu to the Tibetan border. The Chinese, [who] have been eager to reduce Nepali dependence on India by providing Katmandu with a trade outlet not controlled by New Delhi, [will reportedly send a delegation to Nepal early next month to conclude the necessary arrangements.] New Delhi will regard the road as a threat to Indian security since for the first time it will offer the Chinese a strategic approach to areas south of the main Himalayan barrier.

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25X1

(Backup, Page 4)

25X1

25X6

31 Oct 61

DAILY BRIEF

iv

25X1

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Pakistan Stops Pushtoon Tribal Nomads at Border

The Afghan Government is not equipped to provide health certificates and other documentation to 250,000 nomads and apparently has made no attempt to do so. Thus, the practical effect of Pakistan's new requirements is to block the migration.

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Although there is evidence of some misgivings among certain Pakistani officials, the government seems determined to enforce its policy. According to the commissioner of the Pakistani administrative division most affected by the migration, officials have been instructed to use every possible means to persuade the nomads not to proceed into Pakistan, and then, if necessary, to use force.

The nomads are already in difficulty. Faced with the loss of their normal winter grazing lands, they are selling their sheep, which constitute a major part of their wealth, at greatly reduced prices. Many, however, may decide to try to fight their way through the mountains into the Indus River valley rather than turn back to the barren highlands of Afghanistan to spend the winter. Most of the nomads who have not yet reached the border have begun their annual trek in the hope of somehow circumventing Pakistani interference and are expected to reach the border soon.

Kabul will presumably try to exploit increased anti-Pakistan sentiment among the nomads to strengthen its own leadership over all the Pushtoon tribes and to unite fractious tribal elements against Pakistan.

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Chinese Communists Pushing Road Project in Nepal

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[] Peiping has tried several times in the last two years to obtain Nepal's approval for the projected highway--which will cover a distance of at least 50 miles. [In its most recent approach it reportedly argued that India might delay shipments of Chinese aid destined for use in other Chinese construction projects in Nepal--including a cement plant and a paper mill.]

It is not known whether this is a new grant or will be charged against the \$33,600,000 in aid arranged in 1956 and 1960. Peiping continues to rank third--behind India and the United States--among the countries providing aid to Nepal.

[] Despite Peiping's evident eagerness to push ahead on the road project, it may run into delays. One report suggests that the two sides are not in agreement on the route the road is to take. In addition, [] the road builders will be faced with monumental obstacles of terrain, weather, and the Nepali Government's propensity to delay. However, the Chinese have accumulated extensive experience in ten years of road construction over difficult terrain in Tibet and Western China.

The Chinese regard the building of roads as a particularly desirable foreign aid venture, partly because of their value as show projects. The Chinese are steadily pushing ahead with a difficult road-building job in Yemen. Western observers report this project shows a high degree of technical competence.

A second bonus of King Mahendra's recent state visit to Communist China, at which time the road agreement was signed, was Peiping's gift to Nepal of three aircraft, of as yet unknown type.

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